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News Release

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Sex Offender Sentenced to Five Concurrent Life Terms for Producing Child Pornography

Minneapolis - A registered sex offender from Minneapolis will serve five concurrent life terms in federal prison for producing child pornography. Lyle Robert Paton, age 58, was indicted by a federal grand jury in September of 2006, and on April 5, 2007, he pled guilty to five counts of production of child pornography. While imposing the sentence, United States District Court Judge Patrick J. Schiltz said Paton had spent over a quarter century being convicted, incarcerated, treated, and supervised for child exploitation offenses but still refused to believe he had caused harm to his child victims. After the sentencing, United States Attorney Rachel K. Paulose said, "We are pleased Lyle Paton will never again be free to rob children of their innocence."

Court documents filed in this case as well as in a related case still pending against Paton in Ramsey County indicate that between April of 2003 and July of 2006, Paton enticed five minors to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of having that conduct photographed. Specifically, on July 7, 2006, a St. Paul police officer responded to a call about a man seen walking

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into an urban woods with five young boys and a camera. The officer located the boys and the man, who was identified as Lyle Paton. After questioning Paton, the officer returned to her squad car to run a criminal history check on him. She learned Paton was a sex offender with two prior convictions.

The boys were referred to Midwest Children's Resource Center for evaluation. During the course of that evaluation, one of the boys reported that Paton had been taking nude photographs of them for a period of time. The boy also indicated that in return for their cooperation, the boys received money, food, clothing, and toys from Paton.

A search of Paton's Minneapolis residence yielded, among other items, two desk-top computers, a laptop computer, and several digital camera memory cards. On one of those computers, an investigator with the Minnesota Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force ("MICAACTF") uncovered four images of child pornography. The investigator also found 114 images of child pornography on the memory cards

This case was the result of an investigation conducted by the St. Paul Police Department, the Predatory Offender Task Unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its Violent Crimes Fugitive Task Force, the U.S. Secret Service, and the Sheriff's Office in Collier County, Florida, with the assistance of the MICAC Task Force. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Tracy T. Braun.

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